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WRL News

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New Threats from the New Right

By Sybil Claiborne

In Blunt, South Dakota, they are purging "secular humanism" from the schools. In Plains, Texas, students are no longer asked their opinions for to do so would encourage sexual promiscuity, rebellion and crime. The Moral Majority proselytizes obedience—the women and children to the husband, the husband to his employer, God and Country. All over the U.S., the forces of the New Right are purging and repressing. They are attempting to repeal many of the progressive bills pased in the last decade and abolish programs of social value. The poor, women, homosexuals, children, people of color are their main targets, a compliant population their ultimate goal.

There is nothing new about their repressive ideas nor their authoritarian goals. What is new are their numbers, their visibility, their growing political power. Fringe groups, people once considered too freakish to be taken seriously are courted by politicians, some even appointed to positions of power—among them the Secretary of the Interior who sees no problem in giving away the wilderness areas since the world is coming to an end soon.

The New Right is fueled by ignorance and fear—fear of change, of teen-age sex, of feminism, homosexuality, fear essentially of losing control of one's life and the lives of one's children. Above all, a fear of communism, which takes on a kind of mystical force for evil, all powerful and pervasive, and like Satan, wearing many guises.

To ferret out these guises, the government has established the Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism with a mandate to expose and root out worldwide terrorism. This threat is everywhere, according to the committee, oncealed in groups opposed to

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Sybil Claiborne is on the WRL Executive committee.

Local Organizing: The Expanding WRL Network

By Grace Hedemann

There are 30 WRL groups across the country, the greatest number in WRL's history! **Mobile WRL** is the newest addition. They recently wrote, "Many of us wear several organizational hats and we feel that it is important to find a variety of ways to educate and involve others. WRL offers us an avenue of access that is, in some ways, different from others. We believe WRL's perspective on issues is valuable to our work on peace and justice in Alabama."

Oak Park WRL members were so enthusiastic about the WRL Feminism and Militarism Conference last April that they will be organizing a Midwest Feminism and Militarism Conference with other groups in their area on September 11, 12, and 13. For more information, contact Oak Park WRL.

Birmingham WRL organized a demonstration on Memorial Day. As Sterling Lynn said, "I cannot let a military holiday go by without some expression of opposition to the concept of militarism and all it means." The group also participated in a draft counselor training session organized by Bill Galvin from CCCO.

Atlanta WRL participated with Atlanta CARD in a free jazz festival in Piedmont Park. They had an excellent literature table, and got people interested in WRL. The group will work in coalition on Hiroshima Day activities. They had a wonderful idea for a potluck picnic...Happy Birthday, Henry David Thoreau celebration with food, games, and discussion.

Inland Empire WRL sponsored a film showing on El Salvador at their branch library, and joined others to demonstrate

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WRL Chairwoman Norma Becker presents stained glass window hanging to Ralph DiGia on the evening of the WRL dinner to celebrate his 25 years on the WRL staff. More inside. *Photo by David McReynolds*

LOCAL ORGANIZING

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against U.S. involvement on May 3rd in Los Angeles. Inland Empire is located in a military community with Norton and March Air Force bases in the vicinity. They plan to develop a program to counter some of the militarism in their midst.

New Paltz WRL has had a great fund-raising idea. They plan to sell WRL posters, and more posters, and more posters! They noticed every year how students buy lots of art posters at the beginning of the school year to cover their dorm room walls. So, why not WRL political posters. There is a desire especially at the beginning of a semester to get connected and involved. New Paltz WRL will have a literature table and posters at registration.

Morgantown WRL has a unique idea to raise money for the group. They plan to sell their old junk at a local flea market to raise money for their counter-recruitment work. As one member put it, "Morgantown is something of a boom town, but jobs are next to impossible to find. The armed services are really stepping up their recruiting." The group holds weekly meetings and has a guest speaker once a month. On Memorial Day Morgantown WRL held a silent vigil at Courthouse Square with almost 40 people attending. They received positive as well as negative responses, but handed out a lot of leaflets.

Southern California WRL has been busy. They had a literature table at the KPFK Peace Festival and L.A. Community College Peace Festival. They spoke to a high school class on El Salvador, to a group at Cal State, Long Beach, on resistance to Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, and conducted a nonviolence training workshop at Santa Barbara U.C. Members participated in the May 3 San Francisco rally against U.S. involvement in El Salvador, and some members were arrested in late April at Rockwell International headquarters in El Segundo for the corporation's continued military contracts.

Central Florida WRL has three programs. First, they have a literature program. "We are very appreciative of the League's support in this area, because we do see the literature table as a very effective outreach, educational, and fundraising tool." Second, the group organizes a monthly event. Their first event was a very successful slide show presentation on El Salvador. Their second effort was a demonstration for disarmament targeted at the Martin Marietta work force with press coverage, leafletting, and speeches. Third, Central Florida WRL wants to develop a speakers' program. A member will be participating in the WRL Organizer's Training Program this summer. The group has a beautiful banner with Give Peace a Chance and Central Florida WRL on it. They carried the banner at the May 3rd El Salvador demonstration in Washington, D.C. after an 18-hour car ride.

Atlanta WRL demonstrating April 14 against war taxes and for funding human needs. Photo provided by Adele Kushner.

Grace Hedemann is a WRL National staff member.

Roodenko's Fall Tour

The League's past chairman is planning a roundabout and long trip back east following the national conference in northern California at the end of August. Some speaking dates have already been arranged. This notice is to invite you to consider inviting him to your community and/or campus.

The tentative schedule, subject to your changing it, is:

Sept. 1-19: northern CA, OR, WA
Sept. 20-30: southern CA
Oct. 1-15: AZ, NM, CO
Oct. 16-31: KS, MO, IL, IN
November: OH, MI, western PA

Igal has spoken on over 150 campuses since he started touring ten years ago. He has developed considerable skill in presenting the nonviolent alternative, in practical terms, particularly to people who have never had heard of it before. Write to him at the national office for promotional material and other details.

If there is anyone out there, with a car and the time, to drive Igal around on this tour, either all of it or some part of it, would you write to him? All expenses of such touring will be taken care of.

A Lawful Donation

A contribution recently came to the WRL with the following note attached: "Enclosed is an anonymous donation from someone who was part of the lawsuit against the government for being arrested at the May Day demonstration against the Vietnam War in 1971 in Washington, D.C. I would like to urge others who have similar claims to use the money for disarmament and anti-war causes."

Right on! and what more appropriate organization than the WRL to put the government's money to its proper use. Anyone else?

9

9 more months till April 15, 1982,
the day you—along with thousands
of other Americans—are going to
say NO to war, the day you are going
to withhold your payment of income
tax, the day 100,000 of us taxpayers
will refuse to pay $300,000,000
into the war making process.

Get ready for that day, Folks.

Educate yourselves.

Psyche yourselves up for this
new and scarry venture.

Contact other resisters whom you can
support and who will support you.

On that day we are going to deal
a hard, numbing blow to the IRS, the Pentagon
and the entire Reagan administration.

For information on tax resistance contact the War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012.

WRL Statement of Purpose

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all the causes of war.

I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the War Resisters League.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City_____State_____Zip _____

send to
War Resisters League
339 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10012

WRL Regional & Local Offices

WRL/Southeast, 604 West Chapel Hill Street, Durham, NC 27701 (919/682-6374).
WRL/West, 85 Carl Street, San Francisco, CA 94117 (415/731-1220).

ALABAMA

Birmingham WRL, 567-B Tyler Loop Road, Pinson, AL 35126 (205/681-7034).
Mobile WRL, P.O. Box 6416, Mobile, AL 36606.

CALIFORNIA

Inland Empire WRL, 1336 North Wall Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92404 (714/889-3170).
Southern California WRL, 866 ¼ E. Kensington Road, Los Angeles, CA 90026 (213/629-2998).

COLORADO

Foothills WRL, 3024 Ross Dr. #A-4, Ft. Collins, CO 80521 (303/482-9641;482-0369).

CONNECTICUT

Norwich WRL, P.O. Box 1093, Norwich, CT 06360 (203/889-5337).

FLORIDA

Central Florida WRL, P.O. Box 6208, Orlando, FL 32853 (305/896-0703).

GEORGIA

Atlanta WRL, 1225 Cameron Court N.E., Atlanta, GA 30306 (404/378-3237).

HAWAII

Hawaii WRL/catholic Action, 1918 University Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96822 (808/949-1210).

ILLINOIS

Oak Park WRL, 645 North Taylor, Oak Park, IL 60302 (312/386-0192).

INDIANA

Direct Action Committee/WRL, Jan Thorton, 413 S.E. 1st #C, Evansville, IN 47713.
Muncie/Ball State WRL, P.O. Box 401, Student Center, Muncie, IN 47306 (317/289-6710).

MICHIGAN

Detroit WRL, 1542 W. Alexandrine, Detroit, MI 48208 (313/833-3197).

MISSOURI

Ozarks Area WRL, 626 East Normal, Springfield, MO 65807 (417/864-4078).
St. Louis WRL, 962 Warder, St. Louis, MO 63130 (314/726-4662).

NEW JERSEY

Monmouth County WRL, P.O. Box 131, Fair Haven, NJ 07701 (201/899-4383; 747-0566).
New Brunswick WRL, P.O. Box 1895, New Brunswick, NJ 08903 (201/356-6083).

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque WRL, 201 Pine S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87106 (505/243-6169).

NEW YORK

New Paltz WRL, P.O. Box 83, New Paltz, NY 12562 (914/255-8627).
New York City WRL, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012.
Rochester WRL, 713 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607 (716/244-7191).

NORTH CAROLINA

Triangle Area WRL, 604 West Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC 27701 (919/682-6374; 489-1553).

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia WRL/WTR, 2208 South Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 (215/545-4626).
Pittsburgh WRL, 5899 Bartlett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217 (412/422-0377).

TEXAS

Dallas WRL, 2701 Woodmere, Dallas, TX 75233 (214/337-5885 night).

VERMONT

Lamoille Peace Coalition/WRL, P.O. Box 43. Johnson, VT 05656 (802/635-2618).

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown WRL, 912 ½ Monongalia Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505 (304/292-9678).

WISCONSIN

LaCrosse Area WRL, 614 South 16th St., LaCrosse, WI 54601 (608/782-2136).

WRL Honors Ralph DiGia

By Wendy Schwartz

It was an evening of great joy, the kind of celebration that only a guest of honor like Ralph DiGia could occasion.

On June 12th some two hundred of us gathered for an Italian dinner and to help Ralph commemorate his twenty-fifth anniversary as a WRL staff member. People traveled great distances—Abe Kaufman, himself a twenty-year veteran of WRL staff work, and his wife came from Florida—and bridged wide political gaps to be with Ralph. The program featured Norma Becker, Jim Peck, Dave Dellinger, Bayard Rustin, Igal Roodenko, Lynne Shatzkin Coffin, David McReynolds, myself, and Jerry Coffin as MC. It highlighted the many years of Ralph's pacifist commitment, and provided a sampling of funny and touching stories that demonstrated why we all care about him so deeply. Charlie King was on hand to offer good political music; and Frank Sinatra, via videotape, sang "You Make Me Feel So Young," which, if he had known about our celebration, he would have surely dedicated to Ralph.

The evening was filled with special touches. There was ale with a specially printed label, "Brewed in Honor of Ralph DiGia's Twenty-fifth Anniversary"; and buttons, recycled and slightly doctored from a demonstration at the United Nations, "Sit-in for Ralph, June 12th." Peter Poccia made a stained glass wall hanging with a broken rifle and peace symbol as a gift for Ralph, and Corita Kent designed a lovely poster for the event. WRL/West sent a singing telegram which they wrote. And, of course, Ralph was presented with a scroll commemorating the evening, which said in part, "We are not the ones who honor. We celebrate one who has honored us."

Fortunately, the baseball strike, called at two p.m. on the day of the dinner, ensured Ralph's presence. He endured the evening in good, if slightly embarrassed, spirits, and spoke movingly at the end of the program about the influences on his life. He thanked those who inspired and supported him as he demonstrated, was jailed, and fasted. Then he was joined on the stage by his wife Karin, their five children, his two brothers, and Abe, and the program ended as we all linked hands and sang.

The only way we could get Ralph to agree to let us make this dinner for him was to promise that it would be a fantastic fund raiser for the League, which now needs funds desperately. People have been exceedingly generous so far and we will continue to raise funds in honor of Ralph's twenty-fifth anniversary all year. The best gift to Ralph, whose job it is to manage the WRL money, will be a bank balance large enough to cover the payroll and bills.

The War Resisters League thanks all of you who have contributed to this fund raising effort already. If you have not yet contributed and would like to, or if you have additional funds to give, please make your check payable to the A. J. Muste Memorial Institute. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Wendy Schwartz is the Director of the A. J. Muste Institute and is on the WRL Executive Committee.

FLORAL, AND OTHER NOTES

The dinner for Ralph DiGia was marked by many good things—one of which was beautiful flowers: on the tables, for the stage and a corsage for Karin DiGia. The free flowers were from old friends of Ralph, Bill and Bob Aks of Superior Florists. Bill had been in jail with Ralph in World War II.

The meal itself was prepared by Edna Lewis, author of The Taste of Country Cooking, *with help from Julie Finch and Pam Williams.*

We'd also like to extend a special thanks to all those who volunteered that night—bartending and serving the meal—and to those who stayed up way past their bedtime washing dishes and cleaning up.

From left to right: Jim Peck, Lynne Shatzkin Coffin and Wendy Schwartz telling stories about Ralph's life. Photos by David McReynolds.

At the end of the evening everyone joined hands for a little group singing. Photo by Karl Bissinger

WRL NEWS

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WRL is the U.S. branch of the War Resisters' International, a pacifist organization with affiliates in 18 countries.

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Ed Hedemann
Grace Hedemann
David McReynolds
Susan Pines
Igal Roodenko

WRL News (from 1967 on) is available on microfilm from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

Children's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

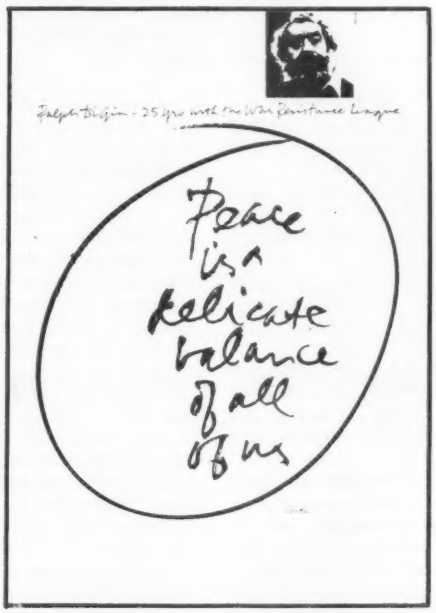
A group of friends between the ages of 12 and 19 have gotten together to form the Children's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Their first action will take place in the fall.

They are asking kids to write letters to President Reagan calling for nuclear disarmament. In October, a group of children will take all the letters to Washington and read them publicly. Then they will try to deliver them personally to the president. They hope to have hundreds and maybe thousands of letters.

In a recent letter to the WRL office, the organizers of this campaign wrote, "Our leaders are making decisions that affect us as children, more than anyone else...Most kids think they can do nothing about nuclear war. Each letter to President Reagan can help make a difference."

All letters and requests for additional information should be addressed to: Children's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Box 550, RD #1, Plainfield, VT 05667.

POSTER TO HONOR RALPH



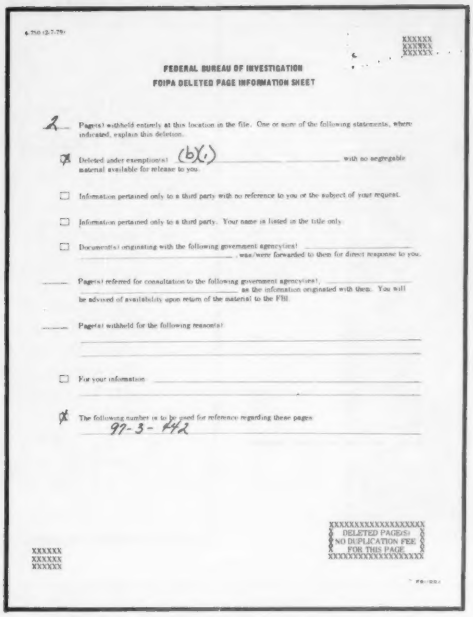
Corita Kent designed this poster to help us remember this very special moment in WRL's history. Its available for $5.00 from the WRL, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012.

Name _____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

The WRL FBI File: Part II



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As promised, here is a reproduction of the last page of the FBI's files on the WRL. (b) (1) means "information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to Executive Order 12065 in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy."

By Maris Cakars

November 12, 1952. An unidentified agent of G-2, Army Intelligence, reports to the FBI that earlier that year, June as a matter of fact, a young man who had been accepted as a student at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville had written a letter to the registrar of the University and thereby set off a chain of events that would soon have FBI agents, an army of typists and even Director J. Edgar Hoover scrambling for months to come.

The student's question to the registrar was as simple as the registrar's answer. Question: "What ROTC activities are available to freshmen?" Answer: "Air Corps, Navy and Army."

None of the parties involved in this seemingly mundane exchange could have imagined what would happen next. In August of that year the college student-to-be wrote two letters, one to the Naval Reserve Unit at the University and one to the Air Corps Unit, requesting an interview. The two letters, according to official FBI documents only recently released, were mailed on a Friday. The following Monday he received in the mail a copy of a pamphlet published by a New York-based organization, the War Resisters League. The subject of the pamphlet? "Which Will It Be? G.I. or C.O.?"

Maris Cakars is on the WRL Executive Committee.

A mere coincidence that the outgoing mail and the incoming were so closely related, both in topic and time? One might think so, but one more event—or, more accurately, nonevent— happened, which brought this series of occurrences to the attention of G-2, the FBI and even its director: The Air Corps Unit failed to reply to its letter. With that the FBI, in the grand tradition of Inspector Clouseau, quickly surmised that, "At first glance it would appear that either 's letter to the Air Force Unit was intercepted enroute at some point and the enclosed document sent in answer thereto or else it was sent to him by personnel of the Air Force Unit located in Charlottesville. OSI Agents located at Richmond, VA., are presently conducting an investigation concerning this matter in view of the strong inference that Air Force personnel is involved."

Perhaps the mails really were so much faster in 1952 that such a rapid turnaround of militaristic request and pacifistic response was possible; or maybe it was the student-to-be's failure to write to the Army ROTC Unit that pulled G-2 into the case in the first place. Most likely we'll never know the answers to such questions. What we do know is that Director Hoover lost no time directing the New York office of his Bureau to "prepare a report on captioned organization, from material available to it, setting out pertinent data concerning the organization."

It should be noted—at least by the very young—that this drama unfolded against a backdrop of fervent anti-communism and a great deal of fear. Earlier the same year an official of the Dept. of Agriculture contacted the FBI for approval to fill an order for 60 copies of one of their publications—an order that had been placed by the War Resisters League. Only five months after G-2 made contact with the FBI because of the mailing mix-up mystery, a California highway patrol member happened to find a ballot for the WRL Executive Committee elections in a field in a town named Bishop. His response to this evidence of democracy in the pacifist movement? He mailed the ballot to J. Edgar Hoover.

On April 24, 1953 the New York office supplied its report, all 79 pages of it. And what a grand report it was! It gives Bent Andressen's birthday (1/14/08) and has a whole page about Ralph DiGia which, unfortunately, has been deleted. They present a breakdown of the membership list (NYC and vicinity: 2,680; Alabama to North Dakota: 4,920; Ohio to end of list including United States Possession: 1,230) as it was twelve years earlier, in 1941!

Did they ever find the connection between the two mailings? Of course not. But they kept themselves busy spending a lot of the money of non-tax refusers.

What can we learn from this story? It seems that FBI agents are incurable paper-shufflers whose main concerns are filing reports and not looking bad on the job. Although they are *paid* to contain—if not wipe out—pacifism, communism, crime, etc., they care more about their retirement pay.

But there's more. A review of four decades of the relationship between the WRL and the FBI shows clearly that the FBI [not the WRL] shifts with the winds of the prevailing political climate. After all, they cannot retire early if they are fired first, so they go along. In the 40's they went along with trying to find a WRL-Nazi connection. In the 50's it was the pursuit of the WRL-Communist Party connection. In the 60's they sought ways to connect us to the general unrest. We don't yet know what they were trying to connect us to in the 70's. But we do know what, if the pattern prevails, is in store for us in the 80's.

As Reagan's steal-from-the-poor, give-to-the-rich program goes forward, resistance will surface. The FBI will be called on to find out who the troublemakers are. They will find the WRL in their files. They will report that, yes, we were on the picket lines. They will often get it all wrong. They will assign us to protests in which we never participated and they will see dark motives in a reprint of an article by A. J. Muste.

What should concern each WRL member is not whether his or her name will find its way on to the FBI list (it will), but making WRL's participation in the upcoming events as subversive as the FBI would like to see it.

The New Right

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spending cuts, the arms race, nuclear power and environmental degradation. A committee witness has already named the Mobilization for Survival as a front group for the Soviet Union because of the affiliation of the U.S. Peace Council. Clearly the intent of these hearings is intimidation for they have not been called to develop legislation but merely to accuse and inflame.

The threat of international terrorism opens the way to a new wave of domestic spying by the FBI. A proposed executive order would allow the bureau to investigate organizations working on behalf of dissident groups in other countries—El Salvador or South Africa, Chile or Guatamala—permitting warrantless searches, burglaries, mail openings and other criminal abuses reminiscent of the Watergate days. With the unleasing of the FBI, an attempt is being made to weaken the Freedom of Information Act in order to shield the bureau from exposure of the abuses and illegalities that are bound to take place.

The legislative centerpiece of the New Right is the Family Protection Act which is intent on abolishing all the social gains made in the last decade and imposing moral and legal restrictions on just about everybody. As the act now stands, public school education would have to conform to a new right ideology—sexual stereotyping and segregating athletic activities, prayer in the schools, parental control over the curriculum, and anti-union measures to insure a compliant teaching staff.

The bill would eliminate federal standards in dealing with child abuse, leaving it to the state legislatures which by and large are extremely conservative. The intent is to weaken or even dismantle child abuse centers as well as educational and counselling programs that focus on the problem, returning family power to the patriarch. It would also deny funds to any organization endorsing gay rights and to any program providing contraceptive or abortion counselling to teenagers without parental consent.

Many of the punitive measures in the bill are aimed at subjugating women. Paul Weyrich, of the Heritage Foundation and a leading proponent of the bill states, "The Women's Liberation movement believes that the future of their political power lies in the restructuring of the traditional family and particularly in the downgrading of the male or father role."

And to insure that women and gays and poor people and children are properly subjugated, the bill forbids the Legal Services Program from providing counsel in divorces, school desegregation suits, abortion or gay rights cases and in other legal matters involving Indians, soldiers and prisoners.

The Family Protection Act targets four major areas: education, taxation, welfare cuts and domestic relations. The Act is undergoing revisions and will probably be broken up into a number of separate bills to make its passage more likely.

Of all the targets of the New Right, abortion repeal has been the most unifying. They have already succeeded in defeating a number of congressional candidates who did not support their anti-abortion views and by cutting off medicaid funds, they have deprived poor women of abortions. In possibly one of the most repressive pieces of legislation ever proposed, the Human Life Statute, a fertilized egg is considered a person, and abortion murder. This measure would also deprive the courts of jurisdiction in abortion matters, a clear and unconstitutional attack on the Bill of Rights.

In a variety of ways the New Right seeks to diminish our freedom; through legislation, intimidation and funding restrictions, they seek to control our lives. Control is the key word, for a country that is preparing for the ultimate war and starving a segment of populace to finance its vision of death, a meek, apolitical, fearful people is a necessity.

It is why feminism, in its challenges to authoritarianism, force and power by the few, is such a threat. And why gays, and the poor and people of color and anyone who does not fit into the rigid roles assigned to us by the new right is an impediment to their goals.

But their repressive warlike aims have a long way to go. When the government tried to whip up war hysteria over El Salvador, thousands and thousands of telegrams poured into Washington opposing intervention. And thousands of people descended on the Capitol on May 3rd to protest our El Salvador policies and cuts in domestic spending.

In a recent article in the *New Yorker* Jacobo Timmerman, who has suffered torture at the hands of the police state in Argentina says, "...what there was from the start was the great silence, which appears in every civilized country that passively accepts the inevitability of violence and fear—that silence that can transform any nation into an accomplice...."

We must not allow ourselves to be silenced, to be accomplices to the repression and social injustices of the New Right. We must make our opposition loud and visible in all the ways we know how. We must leaflet, write letters to Congress, demonstrate, resist, disobey. We must swell the ranks of those organizations combatting the forces of repression and make that opposition a leading item on the agenda of groups with which we are currently involved.

These are discouraging times. The only way to banish despair is by working and struggling with a community of people who share our political and social outlook. As long as we struggle, we are not helpless pawns of the state but independent individuals. And there is joy in the struggle, a sense of purpose, of strength, of connectedness.

Women's Pentagon Action Sets Fall Date

Last November 16, 2500 women from all over the Northeast came to Washington, D.C. We held workshops and then on November 17 surrounded the Pentagon. Some 150 women were arrested blocking the entrances. "We are gathering at the Pentagon," we had written in our Unity Statement, "because we fear for our lives. We fear for the life of this our planet, our earth, and for the life of the children who are our human future."

Although women had certainly demonstrated at the Pentagon before, this was a new step. Women of many backgrounds, active in feminism, peace, ecology and lesbian rights came together. We had begun to see how that nuclear war which threatens our entire future is but the continuation of the constant daily war on women, people of color, on all our children, on animals, forests, soil, air and water. It is a war on the urban and rural poor in our country and the struggling lands of Asia, Africa, and South America.

Last year we said, "We will not allow these violent games to continue. If we are here in our stubborn hundreds today, we will certainly return in the thousands and hundreds of thousands in the months and years to come."

The Women's Pentagon Action is returning to the Pentagon this fall. On November 15 we will gather in Washington, D.C., and on Monday, November 16 we will demonstrate at the Pentagon. We will create new sisterhood confronting the Pentagon will the full range of its crimes through our ritual, our demonstration of our strength, and our civil disobedience. For more information, contact the Women's Pentagon Action, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10002 (212-254-4961).

WRLers Disrupt Armed Forces Day Parade

Linnea Capps, Grace Paley and Margaret Bergamini sitting in at Armed Forces Day parade. *Photo by Grace Hedemann*

By Susan Pines

Every year, the Military Order of the World Wars sponsors a parade in New York City on Armed Forces Day. And every year since 1979 the New York City WRL Local has protested the parade by sitting down, in front of it, or at some other appropriate point.

This year the parade was scheduled for May 16, and there was one important difference from past years. Never before had there been as much advertising and advance publicity to get people to come. Posters appeared everywhere in New York City, most notable were posters in the subways that read: "Celebrate America—Join Us at the Parade—Armed Forces Day."

Needless to say, many people had some very creative responses to this. Some people printed up stickers with the word "Violence" printed on them that could easily be put on the posters to alter the message to say "Celebrate Violence...etc." Someone else had stickers printed up that read "War and Killing are not Patriotic," that could be placed at the bottom of the posters.

Members of NYC Mobilization for Survival joined with the WRL Local this year to help plan and participate in the sit-in. As the parade approached 42nd St., demonstrators stepped out onto Fifth Ave., right in front of the reviewing stand. Many carried signs protesting the increased military budget, or flowers, representing a peaceful world. They were dragged away almost immediately by police. The police handling of demonstrators was very rough in many cases.

Twenty-five demonstrators were arrested, among them WRL staff members Karl Bissinger, Ed Hedemann and Susan Pines, Executive Committee member Linnea Capps and WIN Magazine staffers, John Miller and Murray Rosenblith. In addition, one person was arrested for standing too close to a police van. All those arrested were released the same day.

Also at the parade that day, the Women's Pentagon Action had a vigil line across from the reviewing stand. They stood holding gravestones in honor of women who have died or been tortured in Latin American countries, and passed out a "comic strip" leaflet entitled, "The Big Daddies in Washington are saying 'We know what's good for the nation...'" The Ground Zero Club handed out a satirical tabloid, called the *Daily Noose* which exposed high government officials worldwide as an "international terrorist network," stockpiling nuclear weapons around the world.

May 16th was also the International Day for Reproductive Rights, and many who protested at the Armed Forces Day parade marched earlier in the day in the Reproductive Rights march, and carried a banner which said, "Never Again," with a crossed-out coat hanger and rifle. They felt that it was important to link the issues of the government's incursion on a woman's right to control her body and the military's increasing control over all our lives.

Susan Pines is a WRL National staff member.

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